

MIDSTATE AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB

The Spark

Gap

April 1987

FROM THE EDITOR-- Sorry this edition is late; we had computer problems, and didn't get them fixed till late last week. I can do some of the newsletter on the office computer, but not all, so we had to wait a few days.

EDITORIAL-- Now that Novice Enhancement is here, we can almost certainly expect a lot of new hams on the air, and one of the biggest draws will surely be the voice privileges on 220 MHz. I bought a 220 Handheld at Dayton, and can access one repeater, on the far East Side of Indianapolis, fairly reliably. However, my Repeater Directory lists only two 220 repeaters in all of Indianapolis, which doesn't give Novices too much room when they come "on line." One of our members approached me at the Indiana Hamfest and asked if I thought there might be enough interest to justify the club's putting up a 220 repeater, and I replied yes, given this club's commitment to my annual Novice classes. With the repeater expertise MSARC can muster, we could easily start a 220 repeater "dedicated" to Novice operators and thus put another feather in our cap. This club has already built an excellent reputation in its short life, and if we need a challenge to keep us going, let's make it this one.

DUES-- are past due now. We're going to prune the mailing list with this newsletter, so if you haven't paid your dues by now, you won't be getting this newsletter. It's your loss!

DE N9DON-- Congratulations to KA9DEN Francis Hardacre for winning the February meeting and to WB9TSW Toby Monk for winning in March. (I don't remember who won in April!--ED).

N9DLE Larry, W9A2D Tom and W9GVF Ron have put up the new repeater antenna, and should have the new handline up by the time you read this.

We were glad to see N9FVF Walt at the February meeting. Also, it's my pleasure to announce that KI9T Richard and WB9ZQE Mike have been made honorary members. Welcome aboard!

REMEMBER-- Spring is tornado season, so "heads up!" Things have been pretty quiet so far, but let's not get complacent; it can change very quickly. In the same vein, KA9VWR did a great job with the March 10 simulation--thanks to everyone who checked in. Participation means a lot in an emergency!

UPGRADING?-- Do it at home! Next local session will be at Custer Baker Middle School on May 23. KI9R Til or one of the officers can provide details.

WELCOME-- to Bill Brinkman and Joe Vergara, new members at the

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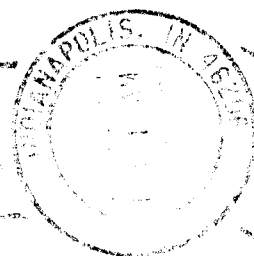
April meeting. Both started their ham careers off right by taking my class, and more importantly, by joining the club. (Bill went to Dayton with me; I think he was a bit awed by the size of it all, but he learned the ropes fast and made some good purchases.)

FIELD DAY-- is only about eight weeks off. We'll be back at the Johnson County Park at Camp Atterbury, though not in the same building as two years ago. Those who have checked out the new digs say they'll do just fine. There is also the possibility of our getting hands on a 90-foot bucket truck; boy, won't that be great?

VISITORS-- at the April meeting included Ben McCarty, a newly licensed ham (no call yet, though) and Sam Williams, Johnson County Emergency Manager. Sam seems to be doing a very thorough job setting up emergency plans for the county, and we as a club are a very definite part of them. If something big happens in Johnson County, we will be involved, so we need to be ready.

THAT'S IT for this issue-- next one will be out just before Field Day, where we'll see all of you, right?

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